

Appl. No. : 0/069,429
Filed : February 19, 2002

On page 1, immediately following the Title of the Invention, please insert the following headings and paragraph:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

A1
This is the National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP00/03618, filed June 5, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application Nos. 11/233238 filed August 19, 1999, 2000-31337 filed February 9, 2000, and 2000-134485 filed May 8, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-19 as follows:

- Sub B2
A2
1. (Amended) Offset paper for offset printing wherein a coating layer comprising an inorganic surface preparation agent comprising silica sol or colloidal silica is provided on base paper for offset printing.
 2. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 1, wherein the inorganic preparation agent comprises an inorganic pigment.
 3. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 2, wherein the ratio of the inorganic pigment to the inorganic surface preparation agent is 5 to 50wt.%.
 4. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 2, wherein the inorganic pigment is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, calcium carbonate and white carbon.
 5. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 2, wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent further comprises a surface-sizing agent.
 6. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 5, wherein the ratio of the surface-sizing agent to the colloidal silica or silica sol is 5 to 30wt.%.
 7. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 6, wherein the surface-sizing agent is selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylic acid copolymer, alkyd resin, styrene-maleic acid copolymer and olein-maleic acid copolymer.
 8. (Amended) The offset paper of Claims 5, wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent comprises 5 to 40 parts by weight of titanium oxide to 100 parts by weight of the colloidal silica or silica sol.
 9. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 2, wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent comprises an organic binder.

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10. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 1, wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent comprises an inorganic salt.

11. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 10, wherein the inorganic salt is sodium sulfate or sodium nitrate.

12. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 10, wherein the addition ratio of the inorganic salt is 5 to 250 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the colloidal silica or silica sol.

13. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 10, further comprising a surface-sizing agent.

14. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 13, wherein the surface-sizing agent is selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylic acid copolymer, alkyd resin, styrene-maleic acid, and olefin-maleic acid.

15. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 10, further comprising an organic binder.

16. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 15, wherein the organic binder is oxidized starch or cationic polyacrylamide.

17. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 10, wherein further comprising an organic binder and a surface-sizing agent.

18. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 10, wherein the inorganic surface preparation agent comprises an organic binder, a surface-sizing agent and titanium oxide; and wherein the ratio of the titanium oxide is 5 to 40 parts by weight to 100 parts by weight of the solid content of the colloidal silica or silica sol.

19. (Amended) The offset paper of Claim 1, wherein the base paper for offset printing is a newsprint paper having basis weight from about 37 g/m² to about 45 g/m².

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been amended to clearly define the invention and conform with the rules of practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The specification has been amended to recite the International Application and priority application. Claims 1-19 have been amended. The changes made to claims by the current amendment, including insertions and [deletions], are shown on an attached sheet entitled **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**, which follows the signature page of this amendment. No new matter has been added herewith.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is fully in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions concerning this application, the